

China Resentful.

A mail steamer recently arrived in San Francisco from Hong Kong brings the intelligence that the Chinese Times contains a significant article signed by a Peking official characterizing our recent legislation hostile to the Chinese in no friendly terms. The article was written shortly after the news reached the Chinese capital that our senate had passed the exclusion bill.

"If this obnoxious American bill should be carried into effect," says the writer, "there will be no other course open for China consistent with her dignity as a nation than to adopt retaliatory measures by prohibiting the citizens of the United States from coming to China. This will be by no means proportionate to the harm done to Chinese interests in America, but it will have to be done in order to show that the Chinese can do something; and if this will have no effect in bringing the United States congress and the United States government to reason and fairness, then it will be a question for China to consider whether it is not time for her to cancel her treaties made with that country; to recall her subjects from there; to expel all the United States citizens from this country, and cease all relations and intercourse, diplomatic and commercial, with that country."

Of course American politicians will laugh at talk of retaliation from China and make especially merry over the threat of recalling Chinese subjects from America. It is a fact, nevertheless, that we have considerable interests in China. We have been making pretty rapid progress in building up an export trade in cotton goods to China, and there has been a fair prospect of supplanting England in this trade, which means a great deal for the immediate and more for the remote future. During the fiscal year 1887 we sold \$5,181,050 worth of cotton cloth to the Chinese—more than to all the peoples of this hemisphere outside of the United States put together. The New York Commercial Bulletin has information that we are shipping considerable quantities of cotton goods to China via the Canada Pacific railroad which find no place in our export statistics, so that our sales may in reality greatly exceed the figures above given.

Furthermore, there is a prospect of the introduction of railroads and the telephone into China at no distant day, and it would not be amiss for us to be in a position to take a leading part in these enterprises, and in securing for American productions a large share in the vast market this will open up. It is a great mistake to court the hostility of the Chinese under existing circumstances and prospects.

Besides, China is by no means the contemptible power that it once was and that too many Americans ignorantly suppose it to be. It has already a formidable navy and is rapidly modernizing its army—a fact of which practical and very substantial proof appeared during the recent collision with the French. We may wake up some fine morning and find that we have been "monkeying with a puzz saw."

The presidential election is over and it is no longer a party necessity to treat China with an insolence that we would not visit upon any power that we believed capable of meeting an insult. Isn't it about time to exercise a little common sense and courtesy in this business? We can accomplish all that is necessary by diplomacy. There is no need of heaping insult upon a country that is disposed to be friendly.—Chicago Times.

The Coming Sweep.

It was the fate of Grover Cleveland to be criticised by both parties, his own and the opposition, upon the administrative policy concerning the civil service. Democrats complained that recognition and reward were denied them contrary to the established practice of all parties, and many of them, pointing to the retention of Pearson as post-master of New York, the most conspicuous of the postal offices of the country, declare that his presence exemplifying their grievance explains Cleveland's defeat. On the other hand, the Republican party, through all its organs, by all its leaders, and in the convention itself, decried the president's use of the appointed power complete perversion of his pledges of reform.

The truth lies between the extreme of these statements. The president gave full efficiency to the vaguely comprehended civil-service law, which relates only to a small class of government employees. As opportunity presented or as it could decently be made he appointed Democrats to office save in some such case as that of Pearson. There was no instant sweep, nor was there a complete surrender of the executive office in the matter of appointments to legislative officers interested merely in rewarding partisans of themselves whose usefulness in conventions and elections had been demonstrated. Had the president accepted the precedent established by no less illustrious a predecessor than Abraham Lincoln he would have so used the appointing power that within ninety days after his election not a single opponent of his party would have been found anywhere in the civil service.

After March next opportunity will be afforded the Republican critics of President Cleveland to evince the devotion to civil-service reform which they would have the country believe actuates their attack upon Cleveland's use of the power of appointment and removal. Are they sincere? No campaign-follower believes it. No conscientious advocate of enlightened civil-service methods can persuade himself of it. Indeed, the management of the Republican administration will be inclined to take warning by what privately they define as a party blunder perpetrated by Cleveland and will instantly proceed to the parceling of the spoils. They will divide the garments among them.

Look for a prompt and universal sweep of the offices after March next.—Chicago Times.

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